

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims

1-21 (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) An annular sliding fluoroplastics member having a composite structure ~~which~~ containing a number of layers stacked in a radial direction and coupled to one another, wherein: each layer includes fluorine plastic and short fibers, ~~wherein, and~~ wherein 20 or more wt.% of said short fibers by weight of a total amount of said short fibers are oriented in a direction along which the magnitude of a load is large .

23. (Previously Presented) An annular sliding fluoroplastics member according to claim 22, wherein 20 or more wt.% of the short fibers by weight of the total amount of said short fibers are oriented in an axial direction of said annular sliding fluoroplastics member.

24. (Previously Presented) An annular sliding fluoroplastics member according to claim 22, wherein 20 or more wt.% of the short fibers by weight of the total amount of said short fibers are oriented in a circumferential direction of said annular sliding fluoroplastics member.

25. (Previously Presented) An annular sliding fluoroplastics member according to claim 22, wherein 20 or more wt.% of the short fibers by weight of the total amount of said short fibers are oriented in a spiral direction of said annular sliding fluoroplastics member.

26. (Previously Presented) An annular sliding fluoroplastics member according to claim 22, wherein 50 or more wt.% of the short fibers by weight of the total amount of said short fibers are oriented in a direction along which the magnitude of a load is large.

27. (Previously Presented) An annular sliding fluoroplastics member according to claim 22, wherein said short fibers are fibrillated aramid fibers, and said fluorine plastics is PTFE plastics.

28. (Previously Presented) An annular sliding fluoroplastics member according to claim 22, wherein each of said stacked layers has a wavy sectional shape which undulates in an axial direction of said annular sliding fluoroplastics member.

29. (Previously Presented) An annular sliding fluoroplastics member according to claim 28, wherein overlapping faces of said layers are integrally coupled to one another.

30. (Previously Presented) An annular sliding fluoroplastics member according to claim 22, wherein plural filaments are stitched to said composite structure which mainly consists of said fluorine plastics and said short fibers.

31. (Previously Presented) An annular sliding fluoroplastics member according to claim 30, wherein, as said filaments, long fibers selected from aramid fibers, glass fibers, polyimide fibers, and PTFE fibers which are stretched, or metal wires selected from stainless wires, aluminum wires, and copper wires are used.

32. (Previously Presented) An annular sliding fluoroplastics member according to claim 22, wherein at least one surface of said annular sliding fluoroplastics member having said composite structure which mainly consists of said fluorine plastics and said short fibers is covered with an expanded graphite sheet.

33. (Previously Presented) An annular sliding fluoroplastics member according to claim 22, wherein said annular sliding fluoroplastics member having said composite structure which mainly consists of said fluorine plastics and said short fibers is impregnated with a lubricant.

34-42. (Canceled)

43. (New) An annular sliding fluoroplastics member according to claim 22, wherein each layer is coupled so that the layers do not move relative to each other in the axial direction.